

# AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint  
Agricolae." . . . . VIRG.

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## AGRICULTURE.

From the London Farmer's Journal.

### HOLKHAM GRAND ANNUAL SHEEP-SHEARING MEETING, &c.

(Concluded from page 259.)

Mr. Coke then gave "The Earl of Albemarle," which was received and drank with enthusiastic plaudits.

When his Lordship rose to return thanks, the applause was repeated and continued some time. His Lordship began by saying, that the manner in which his health was received so overpowered him, that he knew not in what terms to reply properly, or to return adequate thanks to the gentlemen present for such testimonies of regard; he therefore thanked them simply, but upon his honour and soul, sincerely. His Lordship then (dropping into his familiar manner) expressed himself happy that his dear friend, Mr. Coke, had refrained upon that occasion from making any attack upon him, because it relieved him from many a bad joke to defend himself. He could not help, however, relating a circumstance which happened a little time back. Riding over Mr. Coke's park farm, he found it in so high a state of cultivation, and so perfectly clean from weeds, that he could safely say he did not see two docks the whole way; he said not *two* docks, and he spoke carefully and advisedly, for there was *one* [laughter.] and that a fine, tall, strong plant as ever was seen. His first emotion on a sight so unusual, was to alight from his horse, and pull it up; but on recollection, it stood in the middle of a piece of oats, which he believed were foreign oats, and the dock might therefore be a foreign dock, and preserved as a curiosity. [Laughter.] His Lordship proceeded to regret that he did not see any Talavera wheat sown in autumn. It appeared to be a question with some, whether this were a winter or a spring wheat; for his part, he had sowed it at all times, and it had stood the winter as well or better than the old red; and it being a very fine showy sort in the straw, and generally forward, he wondered that his honourable friend should not have a piece of it to shew to his friends at the meeting [Laughter.] He would not undertake to decide whether it were a winter or a spring wheat, but he could not but deprecate the great breadth of it that was now spring sown, because it might throw the land out of condition, by sowing twice wheat in four years, and probably might soon injure both crops in produce. He considered it an excellent sort to fill up in spring crops that were deficient in places, but by no means to be substituted for a barley crop. His Lordship then proceeded to notice the upshot of the Agricultural Petitions, the Report of the Committee, and the discussions which had naturally risen thereupon. He repeated, first, that Mr. Coke had always been anxious to avoid political topics at that meeting; that he [Mr. Coke] had repressed these topics, and had frequently checked those speakers who, he thought, were in danger of transgressing the general rule; but he [Lord Albemarle] was prepared to insist that this rule had not now been departed from. As to the present question, and in the present condition of the agricultural interests, it was impossible for farmers to meet, and not enter upon the subject of that Report by which their sufferings were confirmed and all redress postponed to some future day. As these discussions could not but have relation to the measures of government both

in the origin and progress of the evils they felt, so they also must look to legislative measures as a source of relief, and the neglect of them as a dereliction of duty. In so far were these discussions political; because, in so far, politics could not be separated from the cause of the distress and its remedy. His Lordship then spoke of the Agricultural Report and the Horse Duty, which he supposed were *two* boons granted to the farmers; he said *two*, because one was a boon as much as the other; but the term *boon* he threw from him with contempt. His Lordship here spoke with extraordinary animation and force, and continued by adverting to the exposure of the aforesaid Report, by Lord Erskine and others on Monday. The Report was wholly a delusion, and he admired the able manner in which it had been treated as such. It had been said that the Report had been drawn up with great ability. "I care not for the ability said his Lordship, neither do I know which is the worse character—a downright impudent rogue, or a crafty and ingenious sophister, who will at once destroy your fortunes and confound your understandings." But he trusted the yeomanry would act with energy, and save the country and themselves from the ruin. As to that other boon, the Agricultural Horse Tax, he would look round and ask how much it would relieve the farmers? What proportion the *boon* (the mighty relief and kind blessing bestowed) bore to the depression of the times, and the losses sustained? Was it 8 £. a year, was it 10 £. a year to each individual? (*Cries of no, no!*) Then what relief was it? Would it raise the price of produce? Certainly not. Would it increase consumption, or the circulation of money? Not a whit. Then what did it amount to? "Truly (said his Lordship) it amounts to this; it is the first triumph over that system which weighs us down; and I rejoice that even *that* portion is wrung from them of the enormous sums which have been so fatally applied to enslave the country;—sums grievously raised and wantonly expended;—sums not necessary to the nation's safety, but to carry on and feed corruption." His Lordship then complimented Mr. Hume on his exertions, and concluded with repeating his thanks to the company, wishing they might all meet there again in health and greater prosperity. (*Long continued applause.*)

Mr. Coke next gave the health of "Mr. Hume," whose name was received with loud plaudits. Mr. Coke observed, that it was necessary for him to be very short, as the day was far advanced, and some urgent business remained to be done. He could only say, that the country was very much indebted to Mr. Hume for laying before Parliament such a statement as had forced the ministry into an acknowledgment of their errors, and would pave the way, he hoped, to the reform that was wanted. "Mr. Hume with three times three" which was drank with loud applause.

Mr. Hume in returning thanks, begged to borrow a leaf out of Sir Francis's book, as he must suppose that Mr. Coke's reason for honouring him a second time, was to make him better known to the yeomanry of Norfolk. He spoke of his humble endeavours in Parliament, and considered it barely as his duty to do all he was able to serve the true interests of his country. He was conscious that no measure but the reduction of taxation could ever make an impression on that system which was cemented by the public treasure, and was founded on the exercise of a rapacity which was equally blind, unsparing, and inhuman; the conduct thus pursued was at once unfeeling and ruinous, and the means thus amassed were diverted from useful purposes, to purposes the most degrading. He then spoke of the distress, and the extent of it, and declared, that whatever rubs he had met with in

the pursuit of his duty, would but stimulate him to further, and, he hoped, more successful exertions, towards the reduction of taxation. He observed, that he was not qualified to speak of agriculture, but that had his lot been cast in the country, he could easily conceive how interesting were those pursuits, which at once enriched the kingdom and fed the inhabitants, and which attached the pursuers so dearly to the soil; that they tended to improve the mind and elevate the human character was evident—for in the middle class we always found both moral and political virtues most active and eminent: it was to that class of people—the yeomanry—he looked to relieve us from all our difficulties. No man, he said, who had thought and feeling, could be indifferent to the public distresses—no one who had not a heart of lead could be insensible to the cries for relief. But in all that had been said, he desired to distinguish between the government and the ministry; he was sure that every man who heard him was a firm supporter of his King and the Constitution; the Ministry were alone responsible for the evils they had brought on us:—to that source the country must look for a change of councils, or continue to be trampled on, and ground into the dust. The whole course of their proceedings had only been to aggrandize themselves, and to sink the people into a state of helplessness, and leave them neither power nor voice in the state. He doubted not but the people of England would look to that conduct, and he did hope, before another twelve months were at an end, that we should see evidences of their discrimination between words and facts, and that they would no longer be imposed upon by palliations and pretences, as insincere as they were untrue. Mr. Hume proceeded at great length to view this case as it related to individuals and the kingdom, and concluded, that real relief could only be had by a change in the Commons House of Parliament. He then adverted to the Report of the Committee, and went over the whole ground of the distress, its cause and remedy; observing, that the saving that might be made without detriment to the public service, would not only be so much the less to pay, but it would be so much the more left in the hands of those whose business required it, and was shrinking to ruin for want of capital. He concluded a long and able speech by returning thanks to the company for their attention. (*Great applause.*)

His royal highness the Duke of Sussex then rose, amidst the plaudits of the company. "No one (said his royal highness) has listened with more attention to all the subjects which have been discussed, than myself, and without pronouncing any opinion thereon, I must confess that some of them give rise to emotions somewhat painful; there appears to be before us an arduous task; but let us turn from painful subjects to one of brighter hue, and of more delightful and inviting aspect. Every individual must have been struck with the most happy impressions on visiting the village of Holkham; to see the propriety, decency, and felicity there portrayed, is a relief to the mind among the several sufferings of mankind. In this picture, we cannot fail to notice the importance of useful employment; it is that most imperious and indispensable adjunct to all public good and private happiness, which is so sedulously applied and so operative at Holkham; to this end has Mr. Coke laboured, and his labours are not in vain. Year after year, what must be his pride and satisfaction, in seeing so many enjoy the benefits which his great mind and christian conduct have made happy. This is to deserve that great reward which is promised to the faithful steward on earth—where it is said, 'Well done thou good and faithful servant.' (*Applauses*) Blessed is the man who can do such a work, and blessed are the people



who receive his bounties. As long as this mansion shall last, as long as these blooming fields retain their verdure, so long shall his fame continue; nay, till time shall be no more. (*Great Applause.*) I do not wonder at the expression of a feeling so unanimous—nor need I call on you to testify to the worth of one so well known—so long known—and so richly known by his good deeds. I do but feebly preface his health (for which I have risen) by declaring, that as a member of the Legislature—as a Magistrate—and as a man—you will find in him the upright patriot, the accomplished gentleman, and the true christian."

"Mr. Coke with three times three. His Royal Highness encouraged the applause which followed the toast, and it was continued with extraordinary perseverance and vociferation.

Mr. Coke returned thanks with much sensibility, and gave the health of "Lord Nugent" which was drank with great applause.

Lord Nugent returned thanks in a short but forcible and elegant speech. He observed, that he had to complain of Mr. Coke for calling on him after the company had heard much more able speakers. He would trespass but a very short time on their attention. You have heard (said his Lordship) Lord Albemarle, the master of your hearts: Mr. Hume, a faithful watchman; and Sir Francis Burdett, a martyr in your cause; and it is one of the proudest feelings of my heart, not to follow, but to be associated with them in company." His Lordship concluded a brilliant address by associating, in the most happy terms, the duties of the natural aristocracy and the cultivators, and in an eloquent appeal to posterity, whose verdict was more to be feared than the dungeon or the scaffold.

Lord Albemarle, in a handsome speech, proposed "The Ladies of the House of Holkham," which was drank with rapturous applause. In return, Mr. Coke gave "The Ladies of the County of Norfolk."

Mr. Coke then proceeded to distribute the premiums—beginning with a piece of plate, a very handsome vase, to the Right Hon. Sir John Sinclair,—on which he, (Mr. Coke,) read the following inscription indicative of the occasion:

"Holkham Sheep-Shearing—from Tho. Wm. Coke, Esq. to Sir John Sinclair, Bart. in testimony of the donor's approbation of the third edition of the *Code of Agriculture*; and of the author's indefatigable zeal and successful exertions in promoting improvements in the first, most honourable, and most useful of arts."

On receiving the cup, Sir John rose, and stated that, in returning thanks, he could not find adequate words to express his feelings on so unexpected a circumstance. "To receive from you Sir, (said Sir John) a public testimony of your regard; to receive it in the presence of an illustrious Prince, who has honoured the meeting with his attendance, to receive it in so great a concourse of distinguished agriculturists and eminent practical farmers, and to receive it as a testimony of your approbation of a work in which I have endeavoured to explain the various branches of agriculture, and to receive it as a lasting memorial of your esteem, an evidence which I can exhibit to my friends in Scotland, and bequeath to my posterity,—I shall ever consider as one of the most gratifying circumstances of a long and eventful life. We have in our family a cup, which had belonged to the celebrated Mary Queen of Scots, which she had given to her Secretary, and which by marriage, came into our possession; that ancient relic is highly prized,—but be assured, Sir, we shall ever consider this goblet, with which you have now honoured me, as still more valuable. This proof of your friendship, Sir, will contribute to the progressive value of an estate, which I wish to be highly improved: for what son or grandson of mine (to the most remote descendant) can view this goblet, without remembering in what county it was presented? without remembering by whom it was presented?—and without resolving to emulate the exertions of a Coke, to rival, if it be possible, in the most northern county in Scotland (where our property is situated,) the *Husbandry of Norfolk*."

Having read the several awards of the Judges, and

delivered the premiums as under, Mr. Coke gave his annual lecture on the several objects of improvement with which his auditory are so highly delighted. The length of the speeches, and the unusual interest of this meeting, necessarily pressed this important part into a smaller compass than formerly, and prevented Mr. Coke from dwelling so particularly on the several parts as had been his custom. He stated, that it had been the original object of this meeting to diffuse improvement in agriculture, to see facts, to compare experiments, and to descend on the living objects before them; furthermore to add the experience of each year and to collect all the improvements in their power, from time, from reflection, and from communication. He had often told them, and he told them true, what a waste that was when he came to it; the greater part of those who heard him knew what sort of stock, what sort of cultivation, what sort of produce, and what number of inhabitants it contained. Certainly it was now in a very different condition, which he would not contrast in particulars, but merely refer to the objects he had held in view, which would equally contribute to like improvement elsewhere. In place of the old unprofitable Norfolk Sheep, he had, after some trials of other sorts, introduced the *Downs*; flocks of them had become pretty extensive, but he was sorry to say they were very much crossed in some hands, and spoiled; he should be happy to see the breed renewed from the pure and improved flocks in Sussex, (referring as we understood him, to Mr. Piddington, who is in the habit of purchasing from the best breeders.) A Down flock on a farm of any given size, would pay more money than the Norfolk's by the whole rent; and for this fact, he appealed to Mr. Blyth, of Burnham; who confirmed it. The next object was the *Devon Cattle*; most admirable cattle they were, for the yoke, the dairy, and the pasture, and though difference of opinion must necessarily exist, yet on light land, such as Norfolk, they were allowed to excel. On the importance of *irrigation*, Mr. Coke dwelt some time, doing justice to several individuals whose names have been often mentioned on like occasions. *Underdraining* was the next topic, by which much benefit had been obtained both on pasture and tillage land. Mr. Coke here mentioned various names of persons who had extensively improved their lands in this way. He next descanted on *improved implements*, and especially for the row-culture. Next a recent improvement, called sowing on a *stale furrow*, came under review. We have already noticed this in the ride of Tuesday. Mr. Coke next treated shortly on *inoculation*, enforcing his observations, by the facts that had been witnessed. *Manure* formed the next topic, in which he took notice of the great importance of *pies*, as recommended by Mr. Blaikie in his Essays. Such was the value of this method of preparing manure, that a crop of turnips might be rendered a matter of certainty under the row-culture, and he had never failed in any one instance. Two other manures he took notice of, namely, *bones* and *gypsum*, the former was highly important, and had contributed very much to the agriculture of the country. The latter he found most valuable in Holkham Park, and he wished others to give it a fair trial.

Mr. Coke then proceeded to comment on *rotations*—on *mangel wurzel*—on *Tulavero wheat*—on the management of *hedgcs*—on *marl*—and on the *minutiae of management*. Under this latter head are included the whole economy of proportioning labourers to their work, and horses to the extent of tillage; together with the mode of setting them on work, and every particular in the farm-yard, and the field, as to manure, fences, harness, cribs, implements, repairs—keeping all as much as possible from perishing by the weather, and from destruction by carelessness and neglect. The evening being far spent, Mr. Coke begged to enliven the company after a long dissertation, by giving once more the health of the Duke of Sussex. An instantaneous burst of applause followed.

His Royal Highness arose amidst the unanimous and heartfelt cheers of the company, and addressed them to the following effect:—"We are now come to the close of three happy days, upon which many here, may reflect with advantage all their lives, and upon which all may look back with delight and satisfaction,

in considering what may be done by talents, virtue, and perseverance, such as here exercised. We have witnessed happiness here, which is the result of wisdom and charity. That the whole neighbourhood, or that the whole kingdom could therefore be exempted from the distress which is now complained of, I do not infer: I hope the remedy for this is in our own hands, and that it will be unanimously and adequately applied. No effort in my power shall in any way be wanting; (*Great Applause.*) and as long as I live I shall most of all readily adhere to those principles which placed my family on the throne. (*Loud acclamation.*) It is a great satisfaction and pleasure to me to encourage, as far as lies in my power, the interests of agriculture, and to do honour to those who follow the most ancient and most useful pursuit. In China it is a custom, in order to dignify and enhance the labour of the field, for the Sovereign to put his hand to the plough on a stated day, with great ceremony, and surrounded by all the chief Nobles of the empire. This, without doubt, is intended to signify that agriculture is, more than any other employment, a benefit to the community."—His Royal Highness then expressed, with much feeling and emphasis, his impressions relative to the distresses of agriculture, and the necessity of retrieving its prosperity. From which he took a view of international politics and deprecated the mean jealousies which sowed discord among States. After which he sketched the principles which in his opinion, ought to be applied to the Governments of a free people, and declared that it was degrading in comparison to be a Sovereign of Slaves. We are sorry that the shades of evening here interposed between the Royal Speaker and our powers of note-taking, and we can only add, that the peroration was such as drew peals of plaudits from the company.

Sir John Sinclair then rose, and in a handsome speech proposed the health of "Mr. Blaikie" which was drank with great applause.

Mr. Coke returned thanks, and stated, as he has often done, the origin and progress of his connexion with so excellent and useful a person, whom he rather considered as a friend than a servant. The very great esteem and affection with which Mr. Coke spoke of the merits of Mr. Blaikie, formed indeed a suitable epilogue to the drama, in which so much to the comfort of the company and the credit of himself he plays so useful and conspicuous a part.

#### LIST OF PREMIUMS, &c.

##### CLASS I.—Southdown Sheep.

For the best Shearling Southdown Ram, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to the Honourable General Fitzroy.

For the best Southdown Ram Hogget, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to Mr. Reeve of Creak.

For the best Southdown Weather, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to Mr. Harvey, of Alburgh.

For the best Southdown Weather Hogget, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to Mr. Hill of Waterdan.

Judges—Messrs. Creasey and Brook, and Mr. Francis, (Salesman).

The following gentlemen also exhibited Sheep, either for the premiums, or as extra stock: viz Mr. Reeve, jun. Mr. Beck (Rising), Mr. Beck, (Wilham), Mr. Beck, (Congham), Mr. Kendal, (Weasenham), Mr. Bligh, Mr. Paul, Mr. Butcher, Mr. T. Moore, Mr. F. Oakes, Mr. Wright, (Stanhoe), and Mr. Shearings, (Paxfield).

##### CLASS II.—Devonshire Cattle.

For the best Devon Bull, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to Mr. Overman, of Burnham.

For the second best Devon Bull, a Piece of Plate, value Six Guineas, to Mr. Blythe of Burnham.

For the best pair of Devon Heifers, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to Mr. Thomas Moore, of Warham.

For the best and fattest Devon Ox, under three years old, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to Mr. Bloomfield of Warham.

Judges—Lord Althorpe, Mr. T. Leeds, and Mr. Collins (Salesman).

Various kinds, of Devon Cattle were also exhibited

by Mr. Watts, (Bintry), Mr. F. Oakes, Mr. Beck (Lexham), Mr. Oakes (Bunham), Mr. Garratt, (Bilington), Mr. Shearing and Mr. Denny.

#### CLASS III.—Horses.

For the best thorough-bred Stallion Horse, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to Mr. Whinchop of Ly-on.

For the best Stallion Horse of the Road or Nag kind, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to Mr. Wright of Rougham.

For the best Stallion Horse of the Cart kind, a Piece of Plate, value Ten Guineas, to Mr. Hasek, of Denver.

Judges—The Hon. Geo. Walpole, and Messrs. Beeston and Browne.

Besides the three to which premiums were adjudged, there were thirteen others exhibited, by Messrs. Sibel, Howlet, Barnard, Pritty, Warnes, Bulling, Eve, Walker, Brown, Taylor, West, Watson, and T. W. Coke, Esq.

#### CLASS IV.—Pigs.

For the best Boar Pig of any breed, a Piece of Plate, value Six Guineas, to Mr. Harvey, of Alburgh.

For the second best Boar Pig, a Piece of Plate, value Four Guineas, to Mr. Blyth, of Burnham.

Judges—Mr. H. Abbott, Mr. Reeve, and Mr. Wm. Blyth.

The following gentlemen also exhibited Pigs of different sorts and ages; (viz.) Messrs. Oakes, (Barnham,) Oakes, (South Creak), Beck, of Mileham, Beck, of Lexham, Turner, of Castle-acre, and T. W. Coke, Esq.

#### CLASS V.—Comparative merits of Drill & Dibble Husbandry.

For the most correct and satisfactory statement of the comparative merits of the Drill and Dibble husbandry, a piece of plate, value ten guineas, to Mr. S. Taylor, of Ditchingham.

Judges—Mr. Blaikie & Mr. Tattersall.

#### CLASS VI.—Implements.

No implement exhibited possessed merit sufficient to entitle it to a premium.

#### CLASS VII.—Shepherds

First premium of five guineas—To George Room, Shepherd to Mr. John Barber, of Dunton, who had from 502 ewes put to the ram 567 lambs, 18 barren ewes, and 6 ewes dead: 22½ lambs to the score.

Second of four guineas—To William Boen, Shepherd to Mr. Thomas Seppings, of South Creak, who had from 420 ewes put to the ram 529 lambs, being 27 4-7 lambs to the score; 3 ewes barren, and 6 dead.

Third of three guineas—To Thomas Symonds, Shepherd to Mr. T. M. Nelson, of Holme, who had from 300 ewes put to the ram 436 lambs, being 28 2-3 lambs to the score; 2 ewes barren, and 3 dead.

Fourth of two guineas—To Richard Pentney, Shepherd to Mr. J. Chadwick, of Thornham, who had from 263 ewes put to the ram 287 lambs, being 28½ lambs to the score; 1 barren ewe, and 8 ewes dead.

Judges—Mr. Blaikie and Mr. S. Taylor.

#### CLASS VIII.—Poughmen.

A piece of plate, value ten guineas, to Mr. Ram, Gressenhall.

The sum of five guineas to Thomas Hall, servant to T. W. Coke, Esq.

The sum of four guineas to Wm. Smith, servant to Mr. Blyth, of Burnham.

The sum of three guineas to James Rix, servant to Thomas Wm. Coke, Esq.

The sum of two guineas to Edward Beales, servant to Mr. Garwood, of Billingford.

Among the implements we omitted to notice a cart sent by Mr. Clark, of Alconbury, Hunts, to exemplify the merits of *cylindrical wheels*. It happened unfortunately, that this did not arrive for inspection until the evening of the second day, which occasioned it to be very much overlooked; it was however, without doubt, a very complete and useful cart, at once light, strong, and roomy. The spokes were of wrought iron; the naves of cast iron. We have not room in this place to prolong the description.

### BRIGHTON CATTLE SHOW—1821.

*Proceedings of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society at the late Brighton Cattle Show*

*Continued from page 256.*

The Committee on Agricultural Experiments, to whom was also committed the inspection of several articles of Manufacture,

#### REPORT.

That four several lots or parcels of *Cheese* more than one year old, and twelve lots of new *Cheese* were offered for the Society's premiums; of the former, that from the dairy of Mr. Job Ranger, was considered to be the richest, best made, and best flavoured *Cheese*, and is entitled to the premium of ten dollars;—that from the dairy of Mr. Elisha Matthews, the next best, and is entitled to the premium of five dollars. Of the new *Cheese*, that from the dairy of Mr. Daniel Hunter, was considered to be the best, and is entitled to the premium of ten dollars;—that from the dairy of Mr. Nathan Rice, the next best, and is entitled to the premium of five dollars; the whole of said *Cheese* was made in the town of *New-Braintree*, in the County of *Worcester*.

Several parcels of *Butter* were also exhibited, all of them very fine. The lot entered by Mr. Stephen Hastings, of Sterling in the County of *Worcester*, was considered to be the best made, and of good flavour, and is entitled to the premium of ten dollars;—that entered by Mr. Luke Bemis, of Watertown, the next best, and is entitled to the premium of five dollars.

A great variety of *Vegetables* was brought to the Society's Hall for exhibition. His Excellency Governor Brooks caused to be exhibited some white *Globe Turnips*, of a very superior quality, the produce of his farm in Medford. Some uncommonly fine *Ruta Baga*, and *Carrots*, were sent from the farm of Gorham Parsons, Esq.; and from the same farm, some sweet *Potatoes*, of a large size, and in no respect inferior to those of *Carolina*. From the farm of John Prince, Esq. some *Mangel Wurtzel*, and some *Russian white Radishes*, of a very large size.—This species of the radish is cultivated in *Russia* for the purpose of feeding stock.—Mr. Prince also sent to the Society's Hall, a specimen of *Flax*, of a good quality, produced and dressed on his farm in Roxbury.—From the farm of E. Hersy Derby, Esq. some *Potatoes* of the best possible size for the table, the growth of the present season from the shoots of the third and fourth planting of the same seed potatoes. Mr. Derby's account of four crops of potatoes raised by him the present season will accompany this report. From the farm of Gen. Hull, some large *Ruta Baga*. A particular account of the manner in which they were cultivated, will be communicated by Gen. H. to the Trustees, as soon as the crop shall have been taken from the ground.

Mr. C. C. Brown, of Watertown, exhibited some very large fine Ears of 10 and 12 rowed white *Corn*. From the farm of Mr. Elijah Saunderson, in Waltham, two *Water Melons*, one of them weighing 42 pounds and the other 47 pounds. Mr. Nathan Adams, of Medford, exhibited a large *Beet*, a species of the *Mangel*

*Wurtzel*, with some observations on its great utility as a food for *Milch Cows*.

Several specimens of *Sole Leather* and dressed *Calves Skins*, were offered for the Society's premiums;—of the former the parcel entered by Mr. Samuel Hobbs, of Weston, was considered to be the best, and is entitled to the premium of ten dollars. Mr. Hobbs also exhibited some *Harness Leather*, of an excellent quality. The parcel of *Sole Leather* entered by Messrs. Benjamin Myrick & Co. of Roxbury, was adjudged to be the next best, and is entitled to the premium of five dollars. The *Calves Skins* entered by Mr. Nymphas Pratt, of Shrewsbury, were thought by the Committee to be the best; those entered by Mr. Thomas Prosser, of Roxbury, the next best. Several Tanners and Curriers competent judges of the article, pronounced both parcels of *Calves Skins* to be dressed in a very superior manner; the former is entitled to the premium of ten dollars, and the latter to the premium of five dollars.

THOS. L. WINTHROP, *Chairman*:

*October 11th, 1821.*

The Committee on Agricultural Experiments will make an additional report early in December, before which time the evidence demanded by the Trustees, of the Crops of the competitors for premiums, cannot conveniently be furnished.

#### *Account of four Crops of Potatoes raised in one season.*

April 10, 1821. Planted half a bushel of late potatoes, part kidney and part round ones, cut into sets, in a hot bed.

May 7. Transplanted first set of vines, as I should cabbages, and replanted the sets.

May 21. Transplanted the second set of vines, and replanted the sets.

June 5. Transplanted the third set of vines, and replanted the sets, and hoed the first and second set of plants.

June 30. Transplanted the fourth set of vines.

July 1. Commenced digging full grown potatoes from first set of vines, since which my family (a large one) have been fully supplied, and I have lately commenced digging the fourth set of vines.

The potatoes exhibited were taken from the third and fourth sets of vines, and there are very few small ones.

E. HERSEY DERBY.

*Salem, Oct. 1821.*

#### *Massachusetts Agricultural Society.*

It may be useful to this Society, and gratifying to its friends, to give a summary view of its distribution of premiums at the late Show at Brighton. It will shew the wide extent of country through which its influence is felt; and although it certainly cannot pretend to a greater degree of zeal or intelligence than are exhibited by the local societies, yet its premiums not being limited by county lines, are more extensively distributed.

78 premiums were awarded to 70 different individuals, in 37 towns, and in the counties of

Berkshire,	Essex,
Hampshire,	Suffolk,



Worcester,  
Middlesex,  
Norfolk,

Plymouth,  
and  
Bristol

The interesting report on agricultural products, for this year, is not included, because the crops are not all gathered, and the evidence could not, of course, be furnished. It is hoped and believed, that this will swell the list, and that we shall see some, if not all, of the four remaining counties of the State, in the statement of successful competitors. It is our wish and an earnest one, that every part of the State may feel an interest in, and participate the advantages of, this earliest society.

Per order.

J. LOWELL, Cor. Sec'y.

Boston, Oct. 23d, 1821.

*Directions for the preservation of the SLIPS of the Sweet Potatoes, and for their cultivation.*

The Slips are nothing more than the small potatoes or roots last thrown off by the plant. They are preferred to larger ones on the several grounds, of economy, of food and of room—of their being more easily preserved, and less likely to rot in the ground after they are planted. The writer of this, during fifteen years never succeeded in getting more than one large sweet potatoe to vegetate or grow in the open ground. The ignorance of the mode of culture has probably been the cause of their not having been raised here.

The slips should be put up for preservation without bruising them (or as the directions from New Jersey expressed it, they should be handled as carefully as eggs) in a dry state, in perfectly dry sand or earth, and kept in a warm place as free as possible from moisture.

Those who wish to be perfectly assured of their success, will raise a small hot bed, with or without glass, about the 10th of April, on the south side of a fence, wall or building—On this, they will lay the slips or roots so close as to touch each other, so that a bed of six feet square will be sufficient for a bushel of them. They should then be covered with about an inch of earth. If the cultivator has no hot bed frames, the bed at night may be covered with a mat or with straw.

In 10 or 14 days some of the shoots will appear above ground; when about one half or even a third so appear, they are all to be taken up to be planted. The lightest soils are best adapted to them. As their roots almost universally strike directly downwards, like those of the carrot, they are always planted on hills raised about nine inches, or about the height of a potatoe hill, after its last faithful hoeing. These hills should be four feet and a half apart in every direction.—The slips, two in each hill, one foot apart, are then put in either with the fingers, or a stick, or any instrument capable of making a sufficient hole, and the crown or top should be within an inch or half inch of the surface. When thus started or sprouted, it will be easy to distinguish the end which sends out roots, from that which puts forth shoots for the open air. The slips should be put in perpendicularly or nearly so, the root end downwards. They would grow without this precaution, but

would be delayed and injured in their growth. A little dung dug, or hoed in, will much aid their progress, unless the land be rich. They cannot bear moist or any rich grounds, or places, where the water stands, after showers. Their vines grow too luxuriantly in such situations, and their roots are softer and more watery. The late season was too wet to enable us to raise them in their highest perfection, but a majority of them were still very good.

After they are planted they require the same treatment as the squash or pumpkin, that is, simply weeding them. In the Jerseys, they raise the runners from the ground when they weed them, so as to prevent their taking root, which they do more readily than any plant, and which the Jersey farmers think injurious to the main roots. The subscriber permitted nature to take its course, but he should certainly make the trial another year of the New Jersey method.

The product for two successive years has been at the rate of 220 bushels to the acre, with no great care, nor indeed so much as that bestowed on common potatoes. They were planted this year early in June, and were killed on the 10th of October, which is at least 45 days less growth, than they would have in common years, or if the seed had arrived earlier. They will begin to be palatable and fit for table about the 15th September or the 1st of October as the season may have been hot or cold; but the general crop ought not to be dug till the vines are killed. They will endure seven or eight successive hoar frosts after the common potatoe stalks have been killed. So many persons have applied for slips, that it was the advice of some of them, that these hints should be published. It is not pretended that the culture is of any agricultural importance—it is merely an horticultural experiment very pleasant to those who have a taste for such pursuits—and also gratifying to those who love the sweet potatoe. They certainly can be raised here of excellent quality full as often as we can raise good grapes, peaches, or even pears.

JOHN LOWELL.

P. S.—They should not be gathered in by the hoe, or even spade—they must be raised like the carrot by the dung-fork.

*Do Agricultural Societies bestow their premiums on proper objects?*

*From the Providence Journal.*

The exertions that are now making in New-England, for improvement in agriculture and manufactures, are truly commendable; for whoever engages in a good cause, deserves credit, whatever may be his success: But it is very much to be doubted, whether the Societies, organized for this laudable purpose, use the best means to affect their object. If the object of the agricultural societies be what it seems to be, namely, the promotion of the general interest of manufacturers and farmers, it appears, that nothing ought to be encouraged, which it would not be for the interest of all to practice, who are engaged in the same business; but upon examination, we shall find, that those societies manage upon a far different plan. And to illucidate this subject, let several things be

noticed, not with reference to any particular society, but from a knowledge of several, in different states.

It is the common practice to promise a premium to him, who shall raise the likeliest calf—a farmer who can afford it, gives the milk of two or three of his best cows, and whatever else will promote the growth of the calf, and thereby obtains the reward, besides some credit, which is probably not a secondary object; but the fact is, the calf has cost three times as much as he is worth. Now what advantage has society or the farmer derived from this management? is it a method of raising cattle, to be recommended? and, if not, why encourage it? A premium is offered in the fall for the largest spring pigs, and a wealthy farmer keeps several on milk and meal—the case is not a supposed one) his pigs are found the largest, and he is declared the best hand for fattening hogs; but is it, in reality, that kind of economy which ought to be recommended to our farmers? By feeding an ox at the stall, for seven or eight years, and not working him, he may, doubtless, be made large, and will command a great price, but who that has had any experience in that mode of making beef, will not say, that the cost far overbalances the profit? It certainly is not good policy, for a farmer to turn one kind of produce into another, unless that last made, be of the most value: If the farmer, who makes an ox worth an hundred dollars, expends what would have brought him an hundred and fifty, he is not only a loser himself, but he is doing an injury to society. Upon the same principle, may it not be doubted, whether the lady who spends six months or a year in working a counterpane, which is not worth half the labour bestowed upon it, ought rather to be rewarded, than she, who in the same time, manufactures several hundred yards of cloth? or, is it, the object to reward those who make the finest things? If so, those will obtain the reward who have the most leisure and money.

Again; it is the general practice, in Agricultural Societies, to reward him, who shall raise the most grain on a given quantity of land; therefore, farmers are induced to expend their labour and manure on a small part of their land, and neglect the remainder. It is well known that many farmers often undertake to cultivate too much land, and in the end, by not doing enough, lose what they have done: so in the other extreme, by doing too much, the profit does not pay for the labour. The farmer will always think that the best management, which produces the greatest profit, in proportion to the labour bestowed; nor will he often want sagacity to discover it, or rewards for adopting it, when it shall appear; but we do not find, that the mode of cultivation, which is recommended, is practised, except in particular cases, where a premium is expected, or at least, the name of having raised a great crop. Would it not be better, in this case, if those who would encourage the industrious and economical, would require all those that are ambitious to excel in the art of husbandry, to till a certain proportion of their arable land yearly, fixing the quantity by a just rule of tillage, and estimate their manner of cultivating the land accordingly; this would encourage farmers to husband

their whole farms well, instead of a part, and every farmer might enter the list, whether his farm was as large as Job's or no larger than that of Cincinnatus. In some societies a reward is proposed to him, who shall produce the best cheese, or the best firkin of butter: now it would be a little singular, if you could not find a good cheese in a poor dairy, nor would it be strange, if a person should make a very good firkin of butter, who commonly makes very bad, or possibly none at all except on particular occasions. Why not in this case let the number of cows be known, and the dairies which they make, and give him the credit, who makes the largest and best dairy, from the smallest number of cows. This would encourage the making of dairies, not a single cheese. Much the same might be said with regard to the effect of the encouragement given manufactures: they make a solitary effort once a year to make something of a superior quality, and probably succeed, but they do not act upon a plan, which they can recommend to others, for its utility; in fine, the evil seems to be, that encouragement is given to that kind of management which is not of public utility. A FARMER.

### Coffee—Gravel, &c. &c.

Philadelphia, October 29, 1821.

SIR—The observation on the use of an infusion of Coffee, as a remedy for the gravel, in Number 31 of the American Farmer, will no doubt attract the attention of all persons subject to that distressing complaint. A few additional remarks may be of service.

Of the salutary effects of coffee in dissolving gravel, I have no experience, nor did I ever hear of a trial having been made of it in this city for that complaint. It has however been used in Europe and other countries with apparent success. In the *Amenitat Academi* of Haller, vol. 6. p. 177, it is stated that a weak infusion of coffee, drank freely early in the morning, was highly useful in the cases of several persons at Stockholm in expelling gravel. Tavernier also says, that the Persians know nothing of the disease, and that their exemption is ascribed to their free use of coffee as an article of diet. Other travellers make the same remark as to the absence of the disease among the Turks who drink coffee immoderately: but it is clear, that climate in both cases operates powerfully in favour of the inhabitants; for it is notorious, that warm climates are much less subject to gravel or stone, than cold countries.

Dr Williams, it appears, was led to the use of coffee as a remedy for the disease in question, from the circumstances of his finding his gravel reduced to a fine powder, when immersed in a strong infusion of the berries. On this, I must remark that it is a very uncertain mode to ascertain the influence of a remedy intended to operate through the medium of the circulation, or in the stomach and bowels, from phenomena exhibited by an agent, *extra corpus*, or in plain English, in the open air, owing to the change produced by the digestive process upon most substances. A striking proof in point may be derived from the fact of the harmlessness of many of the most active worm medicines upon those troublesome insects when immersed in them:—and on the contrary of the powerful effect of others upon them, which are totally inert when taken internally. Many similar facts could also be quoted, in reference to medicines known to be highly beneficial in gravel and stone. I forbear to enter further into theory; but I will nevertheless acknowledge, that numerous substances do act *propria forma*, in the human system, and thus produce healthy actions. Those who wish to see this principle defended more ably than in any other work, are referred to the lecture of Professor Cooper, now of Columbia College, S. C., on the

"Connexion between Chemistry and Medicine."—Philadelphia, 1818—Ab. Small.

The causes of stone and gravel are numerous, the composition of them, different, and the remedies as diversified and opposite—Some kinds are greatly relieved by acids: while on the contrary, alkalies have long been famous for their effects in preventing and curing both. Magnesia has produced wonderful results. Every one subject to the complaint, ought to read Dr. Marcet's work "on Calculous Disorders."

AGRIC. MEDICUS.

### Culture of Flax, Agricultural Premiums, Tuscan Cattle, Felling of Timber and preservation of Bridges, &c. &c.

BELMONT, Oct. 8th. 1821.

\*\*\*\*\* I have, with much interest, perceived the zeal evidenced every where, on the subject of the flax culture and preparation. I yesterday received a letter from a gentleman in New-York, who has raised sixty acres of excellent flax on reclaimed salt marsh; and has, in great progress, a machine for dressing it, on a very extensive scale; but I fear he is aiming at too much. Some highly beneficial results will flow from such endeavours; though failures in many attempts are to be expected. \*\*\*\*\*

I know not why agriculturists should be distinguished by being the almost sole profferers of premiums to stimulate improvements in the art in which they *directly* labour for themselves, 'tis true. But the fruits of their toils are enjoyed by all other branches of society; and in fact form the foundations of the prosperity of the whole. Probably they have the faculties attributed to *Antæus*, the fabled giant of antiquity. He was the son of *Neptune* and *Terra*; and derived his vigor and strength from *touching his mother earth*, whensoever occasions required it. This ancient fabulous character is emblematical of the dependence on, and connexion with, each other, which agriculture and commerce should ever exhibit. Neptune and Terra should always be friends; though the time for producing giants has passed away.

I am pleased with your acquisition of Tuscan Cattle.\* I have no idea that England mo-

\* The "DUKE" AND "DUCHESS."

This remark has reference to a pair of the celebrated Tuscan Cattle—recently brought from Italy, by Commodore Bainbridge in the Columbus. Disregarding all private emolument, the commodore on his arrival, generously offered them to the Editor at their original cost, under the persuasion that, at his stock farm the breed would be more assuredly preserved, without intermixture; and thus that benefit, which was his sole object in procuring them, would be most certainly conferred on the Agriculture of his country. These cattle promise a *desideratum* to the agriculturists of the Southern States, to wit:—*active and powerful oxen*, capable of sustaining the greatest heat of their climate—When these cattle were landed from the ship at Boston, after a voyage of *forty-five days*, they were driven at once into the country, under the pressure of one of the hottest days of the last summer. A good judge of, and extensive dealer in cattle saw them on their way, and observed, that while the oxen of that country would have been lying down in the yoke—the Duke and Duchess tripped lightly along, without any appearance of distress. These cattle are of very peculiar form and movement—in colour a light grey, approaching to white—with black tails, ears, eyes and muzzle. The male when not altered, acquires, nearly a black colour in the neck and shoulders, but if emasculated is not distinguished by colour from the female. The male progeny of this stock will be for sale, as they come—at Bova.

Ed. Am. Farmer.

nopolizes the best breeds of cattle. From other countries, and in our own, I have seen finer horned cattle than I ever saw in England. The Flemish working cattle are superior; and no doubt, so are those of Tuscany. In both these countries working oxen are the chief reliance for farming purposes. In Tuscany, they use them almost exclusively. The horses in Flanders are most employed on roads. Flemish horses for the draft are remarkably good. I wish we could use oxen and mules more, and horses less. We should soon see the economy and benefit of the change.

I have not seen all the papers on the subject of timber, and building under sheds. But what I have seen accord with opinions I have long entertained. One of the labours of my life was that of founding, and assisting in the erection of the Schuylkill High-street Bridge. During the war of the revolution I made myself acquainted with the various objects my duty in the War Office obliged me to know. The quality of timber, and modes of using it, for forts, arsenals, gun carriages, &c. was necessary to the superintendence I had, over those employed in such works. For farming purposes I have also had much experience of timber. I always held winter felling the most proper. In February, before the sap reflows, I preferred; but any time in the winter did equally well. I never could agree with those who allege that barking live timber, and suffering it to stand over a season, would supercede the practice of winter felling. As to covering works of wood, I had an arduous task to convince my bridge coadjutors of the salutary uses of this practice. At length I succeeded, and introduced the first cover of a bridge exhibited in this country; and the second in the world. In the Statistical Account of the Bridge, appended to the first volume of the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, you will see in page 46, some of my efforts on the subject of the Bridge Cover; and my ideas of its necessity and usefulness. I had then a multitude of facts and remarks on timber, which are somewhere among my old lumber. Should you take the trouble to read this account of the Bridge, you will see many useful facts and observations on the timber, and all other materials of workmanship, employed in heavy structures. I never believed much in the influences of the moon, as to felling timber, or planting or sowing our products. Extravagant vagaries are sported in this subject; and many effects are attributed to the Moon—good and bad—which other causes occasion. The havoc and waste, wantonly practised in relation to all kinds of timber, have some symptoms, however, of *Lunacy*. Now we have Florida to supply us with *Live Oak*, we have a new opportunity of remedying our past extravagance and waste of that kind of material for our Ships. Congress should make every provision for securing the *Live Oak*, which abounds in that Region.

This subject calls to my recollection so many anxious investigations, that I must close it; lest I should exceed the bounds of a hasty letter. I must add, however, on the topic of covers for wooden structures, of whatever form, *Ships, or Bridges, or any others*;—that our



Schuylkill Bridge was opened for passage on the first of January, 1805, and after a lapse of nearly 16 years, there is not a stick of the timber in the least decayed: on the contrary, the whole having escaped the dry rot, its durability is ensured. To ease the western abutment, built on piles, we made a temporary access, of the best timber, about 30 feet in the passage way, and left it uncovered. This rotted in less than 7 years; and we have now taken it away, and filled the site of it with earth; the masonry being now so fixed and settled, that there is no further occasion of any apprehension.

I think the differences of opinion about felling of timber, arise from the too common and illogical custom of drawing general conclusions from particular facts; trees, like plants have different constitutions, and different times of ripening or perfecting their maturity; and of course various stages of progress in their existence. *Hickory* will it is alleged be the most durable when felled in the flow of the sap—and the coachmakers say that *Ash* is best when cut in the Autumn. I will not vouch for these assertions; for I have ever preferred winter felling, to all other periods of cutting down timber of every species.

With sincere esteem,

Yours very truly,

RICHARD PETERS.

With respect to flax the technical and proper term is *retting*, or more properly *wretting*, in place of *rotting*. No putrefaction should occur. *Retting* is a solution of the viscous, gummy, or glutinous matter, which binds together the *hurl* or cortical part, and the woody or pithy substance. *Dew* often produces *rotting*; but *steeping* operates as a solvent merely; and thus has the preference.

J. S. SKINNER, Esq.

Having re-perused the "Statistical account of the Schuylkill permanent Bridge," we cannot forbear to subjoin the following paper from Judge Peters. It shews conclusively, the use and necessity of covering, to ensure the durability of such structures.

Editor.

"After many fruitless attempts by others, to raise funds, and institute plans for erecting a Permanent Bridge over the Schuylkill, I was fortunate enough, through many difficulties and much opposition, to obtain (owing to its own merit, urging on and assisting my perseverance) the law under which the erection of the present structure has been effectuated. I hold it therefore a duty peculiarly incumbent on me, who originated, and have faithfully laboured in the execution of an enterprize, in which so many have embarked their property, to make an effort for the completion and safety of a work, on which the value of their advances so materially depends. Under these impressions, I bring before you the subject of covering the Bridge; and herewith present several drafts of covers, adapted to the frame. From the time of the first idea of a wooden superstructure, I have never wavered in my opinion of the indispensable necessity of the cover. I was surprised (a long time after I had conceived it to be a general sentiment) to find myself in a minority on this subject, though I was not entirely alone. I have reason now to hope that the sentiments of several of the

Directors and great numbers of the Stockholders have materially changed; or returned to original impressions. I have been accustomed to this situation in many of the most important parts of the work, and subject's connected with it. I have now, as heretofore waited for the candour of the Board and Stockholders to produce convictions; and have generally been gratified by the event. In some former communications it will appear, that I have never approved of painting or coating with composition or resinous substances, the surface of unseasoned or massive timber. I gave my reasons for this opinion, which comport with long experience and observation, however singular it may appear. I endeavoured to prevail on the Board, or the building committee, to cause the strait timber to be bored through the heart; that the air might pass, and the sap there evaporate; which when confined, feculates, and sooner or later, rots all large timber.—Since this has not been done, I am not displeased that the timber is splitting; and, through crevices, giving opportunities of escape to this intestine and deadly foe. Casing of such timber with lead, tin, copper, or wood in immediate contact, and thereby closing the pores, and preventing the emission of the feculating sap, I have endeavoured to shew to have been found, in most instances, worse than fruitless, because mischievous. Nothing has been proved so effectual, as covering the whole of a frame, constructed of large timber, with a roof; and, at the sides, excluding rain, without preventing an uninterrupted circulation of air. The cover I propose is calculated to be sufficiently strong for its own support: but if tempests are more violent, assail it, the covering may blow away before the frame can be injured. The light sails may, by sudden squalls, be detached and yet the ship remain staunch.—These causes of apprehension, have, however, never struck me with any force. Bare and improbable possibilities ought not to be subjects of reasonable and sober calculation. What is certain far over-balances conjectured prognostics.—The bridge, if left uncovered will most assuredly decay in ten or twelve years. Experience is the best teacher in all cases.—The modes of protection proposed in these drafts, have proof to support them, drawn from long and respectable experiment. Among others the Shaffhausen bridge was a strong instance. It had been by its cover, effectually preserved from decay for thirty-eight years, and was perfectly sound, at the time the French destroyed it. We have never heard of its being injured by tempests, though in a situation much exposed to them. In the eleventh report to the British Parliament, by the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated February 6th, 1792, it will be found stated, from settled facts, that timber, secured in the manner here proposed, is of very long duration."

"Ships built under cover are the most durable. In Venice, ships have, for a long course of time been built and preserved under cover. That practice has also been introduced into Sweden; and is mentioned by Mr. Necker, in his treatise on the finances of France. The Venetian ships of war are built and preserved from the weather while building, under sheds covered

with tiles, resembling the roofs of houses supported mostly by brick walls on each side, to defend the workmen in winter, from the inclemency of the weather; which walls are as high as the upper parts of the ships reach and secured by cross-beams, high enough to admit of ships being launched under them. The sheds cover the ships completely on both sides; but are open at the stem and stern: only projecting a few feet farther out; and there they have temporary covers of boards to keep out the rain. Eighteen large ships, some pierced for eighty guns, have been thus preserved, perfectly sound (in 1792) for fifty-nine years; under the sheds." "I contrast with the foregoing facts, those I have collected on the subject of timber generally; and those relative to the uncovered wooden bridges in America, particularly. It is to be regretted that all these structures are thus destitute of the means of preservation. I now confine myself to the account of them I recently received from Mr. Timothy Palmer; in a letter dated the 10th of December last, in these words:—"To some questions you put to me some time since, relative to the durability of timber bridges, without being covered sides and top, I answer, from the experience that I have had in New-England and Maryland—that they will not last for more than ten or twelve years, to be safe for heavy carriages to pass over. The bridge near Newburyport, over the Merrimack, was built in the year 1792. It was repaired in the year 1802. The bridge at Andover, across the same river, was built in 1793. It was rebuilt in 1803. Piscataqua bridge, near Portsmouth, (N. H.) was built in 1794. I believe there have been no repairs since, except the Draw. But I have lately been informed it was much decayed, and is to be repaired next season. The bridge that I built over the Potomac at Georgetown, in 1796, is not safe for heavy teams to pass over. Some have tried paint in the joints, others turpentine and oil, but all to no great effect. I am an advocate for weather boarding and roofing, although there are some that say I argue much against my own interest. Notwithstanding, I am determined to give my opinion as appears to me to be right. And it is sincerely my opinion, that the Schuylkill bridge will last 30 and perhaps 40 years, if well covered.—You will excuse me in saying that I think it would be sporting with propriety, to suffer that beautiful piece of architecture (as you are pleased sometimes to call it) which has been built at so great expense and danger, to fall into ruins in 10 or 12 years!" Need much be added on the subject generally, after these statements, and remarks of a practically intelligent and worthy man."

"Never then conceiving, that any objections would be made to covering the bridge, I furnished several sketches for covers (as no person better qualified would do it,) contemporaneously with Mr. Palmer's drafting his plan; and always considered the cover as much a part of the plan, as the frame. Knowing the liability of timber uncovered to decay, I should not have thought it justifiable to invite subscriptions to our stock; unless I had taken it for granted, that the bridge would be protected by some cover. I prevailed on Mr. Palmer to suf-



fer me to alter his plan, in several important particulars; with a view to my design for a cover. To this he liberally consented; and now considers these alterations to be valuable improvements; and has declared his intention to adopt them in all his future plans for bridges. The masonry too, was calculated by Mr. Vickers, agreeably to drafts furnished by me, for a cover similar to that marked No. 1. delineated by Mr. Adam Traquair from my sketches. I mention these facts, not with any view to individual merit, but to show contemporaneous opinions; for I communicated every thing to those with whom I acted, as I occasionally met them. I presented an estimate (as correct no doubt as those generally are) calculated for this design; made at my request by Mr. William Garrigues and Mr. Samuel Robinson, then superintendant. It may be applied to any other with no great variation. It amounts to eight thousand dollars, a sum bearing no important proportion to the loss of capital, by the decay of the structure on which it has been expended. No. 2 and 3, are other designs for covers, which I have procured to be made.—No. 2 is an improvement on the first sketch, made with the assistance of Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Traquair. Mr. Owen Biddle furnished the sketch No. 3.”

“It is a mistake, in my opinion, into which some respectable gentlemen have fallen, that the timber will be benefitted by remaining for a season uncovered. The leakages during rains, or the melting of snows, percolating through almost all the joints of the frame and the platform, sufficiently refute this idea. Every week and month this finish to our work is unnecessarily delayed, is an advance to ruin. No time should therefore be lost in preparations for the cover, which I have always considered as a part of the original plan; and not a new, or additional measure, though the exact design, or elevation, was not specially fixed.”

“No person can regret more than I do, the unforeseen but inevitable expenditures of the stockholders. None can give them more credit than I do for their patience, under long and unpleasant privations. These will, however, now, with the success of our work, be remunerated. But it is their interest, and our duty, to secure what, with uncommon difficulties, and such heavy expenses, has been accomplished. Their stock will be appreciated, when the object of it is rendered in its duration, as well as other attributes, really permanent. It would be a reflection upon their understandings, and, with the knowledge we have on the subject, a breach of our trust, to practise a dangerous and false economy, and thereby incur the penalty of certain destruction. I beg the excuse of the board for giving my sentiments at length on the subject.—It is one on which I thought it my duty, whatever may be the result, to be explicit.”

RICHARD PETERS.

### On the White Lupin.

BRIGHTON, Nov. 5, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

Among the various plants applied as green dressings for the restoration of worn out soils, the White Lupin stands pre-eminent in those climates that will

permit their growth between the periods of harvest and seed time. That a trial may be made with them, I have forwarded, by Mr. Stone, half a bushel of the seed, which I trust you will cheerfully distribute for the benefit of our Southern brethren. They were sent to me from Fayal; and the following account, which I have collected, of the effects of their culture, will, at least, serve to convince us, that “the Earth, ever subservient to the wants of man,” when exhausted by his insatiable demands, requires from him but a little mechanical aid, to enable her still to “spread her walks with flowers and his table with plenty.”—The island of Fayal though in the same parallel of latitude with Maryland, is subject to a temperature seldom above 80, or below 50 degrees of Fahrenheit. The soil is thin, and incumbent on *scoria* and other undecomposed volcanic substances; but naturally exceedingly fertile. For a long period of time, every part accessible to the plough, has been in tillage; and, with the exception of selected patches shifted for flax, under alternate crops of wheat and Indian corn, (the latter being the chief food of the labouring classes.) Such a system of severe cropping; the resources for manure very limited, and without the advantage of improved implements or modes of culture, caused a visible deterioration of the soil; the crops lessened from year to year; partial importations were resorted to; and the *well born* of the Island became seriously apprehensive of the most distressing consequences.

Providentially, some 15 or 20 years since, the *White Lupin* was introduced from Italy, and though it came by accident, to a people strongly bigoted to old practices of husbandry, the cultivation soon became general.

The wheat and corn are harvested in August, the land is soon after ploughed and Lupins sown on the surface, or but slightly covered, at the rate of two bushels per acre. In February they flower, and are then turned in with the wheat, corn or Flax in their several rotations. By this management a progressive improvement of the soil has become apparent: there are no longer apprehensions of famine; a very redundant population subsists; and besides supplying 20,000 on the neighbouring island of Pico, where scarce any thing but the *vine* is cultivated, a surplus is often sent to other islands, and in some instances to Lisbon!

Lupins are ranked by Gardeners among the hardy annuals, but I am not able to say what degree of frost they will bear. From a single experiment I am led to believe that, owing to the droughts to which our climate is subject, not much advantage will be derived by sowing them on summer fallows as a dressing for winter crops. Their application to spring crops, in those sections of our country where they can be grown in season for that purpose, will probably become the first object of experiment; and should more be wanted for extending such trials, or for raising seed, they may be obtained with facility, on application to Charles W. Dabney, Esq. United States Vice Consul at Fayal; who, I am confident, will be highly gratified by having an opportunity of rendering services to his country.

I remain dear sir, truly yours,

S. W. POMEROY.

### CHILI WHEAT.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer.  
MERIDIAN HILL, Nov. 12.

Gentlemen—In consequence of the notice in your paper some time since, that I had some Chili wheat to distribute, I have received letters from many gentlemen in different parts of our country, who are desirous of obtaining it, but who are ignorant as to the quantity I have to spare, the price they are to pay for it, and the advantage it possesses over the wheat of the country. May I, therefore, ask of you to inform them that I have now only about 4

or 5 bushels remaining; that I have given my servants orders to give to any one who may send for it, one quart; that all that is required for it is the satisfaction of distributing it; and that the advantage it has over common wheat, is its greater productiveness and less liability to shatter out in the field.

Those who wish to make a trial of it, can obtain a quart by sending for it, so long as I have so much on hand.

With great esteem, your obedient Servant,  
D. PORTER.

P. S. When Judge Bland came from Chili, I sowed a small wine-glass full of the wheat he brought with him on 1500 square feet of ground, and reaped therefrom one half bushel and three quarts of grain. The next year I obtained upwards of 25 bushels, which I had ground into flour, the best that has been in my family since I have been in the District.

### BEER & BREAD.

At the house of a most estimable friend, a farmer of Massachusetts—whose table affords all the luxuries which taste can select and wealth command, we of choice, ate and drank *domestic Bread & Beer*—made according to the following recipes.

#### HOP BEER.

Boil one quarter of a pound of hops in three or four pails of water, till the leaves settle and are thoroughly boiled so as to separate from the head, strain the liquor through a sieve into a cask not exceeding fifteen gallons in gauge, add one gallon good molasses when hot, then fill the cask with cold water, shake it well for a few minutes, and when the liquor is blood warm put in one pint of good foaming yeast, which must completely fill the cask to the upper side of the bung stave, that when it ferments it may throw off every foul particle; before the fermentation has entirely subsided, bung it close, let it stand three days and it will be fit for use, do not tap the cask as you draw, nor should it after drawing be vented, it will run without a vent generally, but if air is admitted it will become flat.—To preserve it longer than it will keep in casks, bottle off two or three dozen which will keep well several weeks, and when opened give a fine cap, and be very sprightly.

#### RYE AND INDIAN BREAD.

An equal quantity of rye and Indian meal, *meal from the best yellow corn*, sifted so as to separate the meal from the bran, stir it well together and mix it with water as hot as the hand can be borne in it, knead it faithfully, much depends on that, after which put half the quantity of good yeast allowed for the same quantity of wheat or flour bread—it must not be made as hard or stiff as flour bread, and does not take so much time to rise, it requires a hotter oven, and will not bake in less than six hours, and is improved by standing eight or even ten hours in the oven, from the time it is first put in—we use in this part of the country for this kind of bread, iron pans, shaped something like a flower pot—the shape may not be material as to the quality of the bread, but that form gives the best slices for brown bread toast.

Remedy for the Gout by Dr. Bradier, purchased by Napoleon, at the price of £2,500 sterling

Balm of Mecca	-	-	six drachms
Red Bark	-	-	one ounce
Saffron	-	-	half an ounce
Sasaparilla	-	-	one ounce
Sage	-	-	one ounce
Rectified Spirits of Wine	-	-	one ounce

Dissolve separately, the Balm Mecca in one third of the Spirits of Wine—macerate the rest of the substances in the remainder, for 48 hours

—filter and mix the two liquors. For use the tincture obtained is mixed with twice or thrice the quantity of lime water; the bottle must be shaken, in order to mix the precipitate settled to the bottom by standing.

The following is a mode of employing the remedy.

A poultice must be prepared of linseed meal, which must be of a good consistency, and spread very hot of the thickness of a finger, on a napkin, so as to be able completely to surround the part affected: if it be required for both legs, use three quarts of linseed meal.

When the poultice is prepared, and as hot as the patient can bear it, about two ounces of the prepared liquor must be poured equally over the whole surface of each, without its being imbibed; the part affected is then to be wrapped up in it, and bound up with flannel and bandages to preserve the heat.

The poultice is generally changed every twenty-four hours, sometimes at the end of twelve.

#### Method of cleansing Silk, Woolen and Cotton Goods without damage to the texture or colour.

Take raw potatoes, in the state they are taken out of the earth; wash them well; then rub them on a grater over a vessel of clean water to a fine pulp, pass the liquid matter through a coarse sieve into another tub of clear water; let the mixture stand till the fine white particles of the potatoes are precipitated; then pour the mucilaginous liquor from the fecula, and preserve this liquor for use. The article to be cleaned should then be laid upon a linen cloth on a table, and having provided a clean sponge dip the sponge in the potatoe liquor, and apply the sponge thus wet upon the article to be cleaned, and rub it well upon it with repeated portions of the potatoe liquor, till the dirt is perfectly separated; then wash the article in clear water several times, to remove the loose dirt; it may afterwards be smoothed or dried. Two middle sized potatoe will be sufficient for a pint of water.

The white fecula which separates in making the mucilaginous liquor, will answer the purpose of tapioca, will make an useful nourishing food with soup or milk, or serve to make starch or hair powder.

The coarse pulp which does not pass the sieve is of great use in cleaning worsted curtains, tapestry, carpets, or other coarse goods.

The mucilaginous liquor of the potatoe will clear all sorts of silk, cotton, or wollen goods, without hurting the texture of the articles or spoiling the color.

It is also useful in cleansing oil, paintings, or furniture that is soiled.

Dirty painted wainscots may be cleaned by wetting a sponge in the liquor, then dipping it in a little fine clean sand and afterwards rubbing the wainscott therewith.

### Editorial Correspondence.

#### FREEZING CIDER.

Further experiments, since the publication of my Book on Fruit Trees, have confirmed my opinion of the efficacy of freezing the best Ciders, in forming

the best substitute for foreign Wines—far superior to the ordinary liquors procured by boiling with sugar and brandy, under the imposing name of home made wine, both from their superiour flavor and greater salubrity. I am sir, with great respect, very truly your obedient servant,

WM. COXE.

### Trial of Ploughs.

November 9th, 1821.

MY DEAR SIR,

I said something in my letter by Mr. S. or alluded to a plough mentioned in your farmer as requiring less power than any other plough, and doing the work well—Mr. P. who I saw yesterday it seems was struck with the advertisement of the plough and has written friend Davis on the subject.—I doubt the method of testing by the Dynamometer in manner of Mr. D. and send you our method taken after a ploughing match in 1819—which follows, viz:

Oct. 13, 1819. Committee of trustees tried after the ploughing match this day, the following ploughs that had competed for premiums, and a plough invented by J. W. Sumner, Esq. which was not entered for premium—the different degrees of power required for each plough was ascertained by the Dynamometer, or Index Swing Tree, brought by Cap. Tracy from London, for the use of the society—each plough turned such a furrow as best suited the plough and ploughman, after which the furrows were accurately measured and brought into cubic inches, it having been found that 100 pounds power gave seventeen inches and one eighth power—the following is the result.

No.	Plough	Furrow Slice Inches.	Square Inches.	Power of Index.	lbs. 100 give	Inches.
1.	G. Parson's plough made by Leatt & How- ard, of Hingham	13 by 5 1/2	71 1/2	414	100 give	17 1-8
2.	Cap. Cook's plough by Warren of Dedham	13 1/2 by 5 1/2	71	414		17 1-7
3.	Stetman Williams' plough, by D. D.	16 by 4	64	414		15 1/2
4.	Mr. Warren's new plough, by himself	15 by 5 1/2	79	537		14 1/2
5.	T. W. Sumner, Esq. plough invented by himself	13 by 5 1/2	71 1/2	504		14 1/4
6.	Hon. Josiah Quincy's plough, made by Free- born, cast iron, from New York	9 1/2 by 5	47 1/2	357		13
7.	E. H. Derby, Esq. plough from England, small Scotch plough	11 by 6	66	442		12 5-8

Thus you see the *Ne plus ultra Plough*, which took the first premium in Essex of \$20 dollars this season, requires less power than any other that has yet been

tested. It has now taken one hundred and eleven dollars premium; Mr. S. was a warm friend to it and can tell you that I take the kind of care of it bestowed on my best razor for shaving, and to which I am not a little attached.

I was pleased with the communication of a friend Minor, on the subject of attempting to palm on the public an old and long tried agricultural implement as a new invention. I agree with him perfectly that such attempts should be held up for public derision. Your correspondent S. V. S. has brought the whole after guard of my family upon me. Mr. P. begins to perceive something that has a cancerous look on my lip—and they all side with Mr. S. P. S. who by the way I do not believe is a smoker, and knows nothing of the fine effect of a high flavored segar after tugging and toiling all day. I wonder if he is aware that men never quarrel when smoking; angry passions once raised—out goes the pipe, even more, it is not held in the hand but laid aside before a man can feel all the evil passions which fit him for Pandemonium.

JOHN S. SKINNER, Esq.

#### REMEDY FOR SORE EYES.

Boil a quarter of an ounce of Camomile Flowers in a pint of new milk, and wash the Eyes three or four times a day.

### THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1821.

Flour from the wagons \$6 50—Wharf do \$6 25—Whiskey from the wagons 31 cents, exclusive of bbl.—Red Wheat, \$1 20 and \$1 25—one sale of Red Wheat raised by John Sothoron at \$1 30 cts—White Wheat may be quoted at \$1 30 and \$1 40—but none of good quality has been at market this week—Corn, 60—Rye, 60 and 65—other grain as last week.

Live Cattle, \$4 50 and \$6—Butter, 31—Eggs per dozen, 25—Hams, 14—Middlings, 8 and 9—Cod-fish, per quintal, wholesale, \$3 50 and \$4—New England Beans, per bushel, \$1 12 1/2—do Peas, 75—Prime Beef per bbl. \$9—Prime Pork, \$10 and \$11—Mess, \$15—

Maryland Tobacco, very flat and few sales—Virginia and Kentucky, none.

#### AGRICULTURAL ALMANAC FOR 1822.

Just published in Philadelphia, by Messrs Griggs and Dickinson, and for sale by the Subscriber in this city, at the Printing-Office of the AMERICAN FARMER, corner of Market and Belvidera streets.

#### Agricultural Almanac for 1822

Besides containing a good Calendar, interleaved with blank writing paper for memoranda, it has very many useful articles connected with the interests of Husbandry, and which make it particularly valuable to the Farmer.

Orders from the Country will meet with prompt attention—and a liberal discount made when purchased by the quantity to sell again.

JOSEPH ROBINSON.

November 16, 1821.

#### AN OVERSEER.

I wish to be employed as an Overseer upon a Farm in a healthy part of the country. To Mr. R. Smith, I refer for information as to my sobriety, industry, and knowledge of all kind of farming business, and as to the capacity of my wife to take charge of a dairy. We are from Surry, England, and have been long enough in this country to be acquainted with its best modes of cultivation.

November 16, 1821.

E. KEEN.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN S. SKINNER.